

ARTICLES, RULES,

AND

REGULATIONS,

FOR FORMING A

SOCIETY



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,

K
TO BE CALLED THE

LIBERAL SOCIETY

OF

TRADESMEN.

NEWCASTLE:

Printed by HALL and ELLIOT.

1793.

ARTICLES

AND

REGULATIONS

OF THE

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NEWCASTLE

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NEWCASTLE

THE SOCIETY

P R E F A C E.

MAN, by the Construction of his Body, and Disposition of his Mind, is a Creature formed for Society. The Body being subject to Infirmary and Disease, is exposed to Difficulties that would involve him in Despair and Death, but for the friendly Aid of his fellow Mortal, whose sympathetic Nature prompts him to cheer and alleviate the Anguish of an afflicted Brother. The Mind, a much more exalted and active Principle, would suffer much in its Energy, and more in its Enjoyments, was it denied the mutual Comforts and Advantages of Society.—Hence come the Utility and Necessity of Associations of this Nature, which, when conducted with Prudence and Frugality, cannot well fail to produce the most beneficial Consequences.

The Vicissitudes to which Mankind are liable, are as numerous as they are various, and happen to the Wise and Good, as well as to the Inconsiderate; it is a Duty therefore every one owes to the Community at large, to encourage every Attempt calculated to soften and relieve the Wants of others, whilst it holds out the same Prospect to themselves, should the Providence of Almighty God reduce them to Circumstances requiring it.

As there are also Diversities of Dispositions amongst Men, which, though in a general Point of View, are wisely ordained, as they much contribute to the Happiness of the Whole ; yet in select Societies, much Discord and Disorder may arise, from an indiscriminate Admission of Members ; to prevent which, as much as may be, this Society have determined to admit none but such as are recommended for Sobriety, and who shall be a Principal, or Master, in his respective Profession. Many of this Description, living in a comfortable Competency, while Health has been afforded them, have, with their Families, by Sickness, endured many galling Difficulties,—but when Death has put a Period to the Head and Hope of the Family, involved in Penury and Woe, what Language can convey the Horrors of their Situation—Pity bleeds at the mournful Sight, and Sympathy drops a Tear at a Scene so deplorable. Then, assuredly, such a Provision as is intended by this Institution, must prove, in many Cases, a most seasonable Relief.

Nor can we let slip so suitable an Occasion to express, thus publickly and unequivocally, our affectionate Loyalty to the King, and our sincere Attachment to the Constitution.—In fine, it is the Intention of this Society, to alleviate the Distresses, and, by pecuniary Aid, to assist each other, strictly conformable to the following Rules.

ARTICLES,

ARTICLES, RULES, &c.

WE, the several Persons signing these Introduction.
Presents, and whose respective Places of Abode
and Trades, with our respective Ages, and the
Time of our respectively signing these Presents,
are set down and written immediately after
our respective Names, do and each and every
of us doth hereby severally and respectively,
for Ourselves, and for our several and respec-
tive Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, and
not jointly or the one for the others or other
of them, or for the Heirs, Executors, and
Administrators of one another, covenant,
promise, and agree, to and with each and
every other and others of us, and our several
and respective Executors and Administrators,
to unite and form Ourselves into a Society,
in NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, to be called the
LIBERAL SOCIETY OF TRADESMEN,
as and from the second Day of February, one
Thousand seven Hundred, and Ninety-one,
under and subject to such Rules, Articles,
A 3 Orders,

Orders, and Regulations, as are hereinafter mentioned and expressed ; (that is to say)

I.

Persons and
Manner
of Admission,

THAT this Society shall never consist of more than One Hundred and One Members ; and that no Journeymen of any Branch, or menial Servant of any Kind, shall be admitted as Members of this Society ; and that each Candidate, before Admission, shall be first recommended by one or more Member or Members of this Society, at one of their Meetings, and at the next Meeting the Members then present shall determine, by Ballot, in Manner hereinafter mentioned, the Admission or Rejection of such Candidate or Candidates ; and every Candidate must appear in the Club-Room, personally, before such Ballot takes Place ; and that the Member who reports such Candidate or Candidates, shall deposit with this Society Five Shillings for each Candidate at the Time he is proposed a Candidate ; and if such Candidate or Candidates so proposed do not appear at the Club-Room, when and where the Society shall meet, within two Meetings next after his or their being so proposed, then the said Sum of Five Shillings shall become forfeited to this Society ; but if such Candidate or

Can.

Deposit.

Candidates shall be rejected by this Society, the Deposit shall be returned ; and if admitted, the same shall be allowed in Part for his or their Entrance Money.

II.

The Election of each Member of this Society, and all other Matters relating to the same, shall be decided by Ballot, for which Purpose a Box shall be provided with two Apartments, one of which to be marked with the Word "FOR," and the other with the Word "AGAINST," which shall be placed in a private Place in the Club-Room, and each Member shall receive from the President, or whom he shall appoint, a Ball ; and each Member who is inclined to vote in favor of such Candidate, or such Question as shall then be before this Society, shall put such Ball into that Apartment of the said Box marked with the Word "FOR ;" but if he is inclined to vote against such Candidate or Question then before this Society, he shall put such Ball into the other Apartment of the said Box, marked with the Word "AGAINST." And if at the Conclusion of such Ballot there shall appear a Majority of Balls in the Apartment of the said Box marked with the Word "FOR ;" then if the Business before the Society is the

The Manner
of deciding all
Questions and
Disputes.

Election of a Member, the Candidate proposed shall be duly elected a Member of this Society; and if it should be any other Question respecting this Society, such Ballot shall be declared in favor of the Question. But if the Majority of Balls shall appear in the other Apartment of the said Box, marked with the Word "AGAINST," then the Candidate so proposed, or such other Question then before this Society, shall be declared to be rejected or negatived. And if there shall be an equal Number of Balls in each Apartment of the Box, then the President shall, by putting a Ball into either of the said Apartments, create a Majority, and thereby determine such Election or other Question then before this Society.

III.

Age for Admission,

THAT no Person who is above the Age of fifty Years, shall be admitted a Member of this Society, from and after the Day of the Date hereof, till the second Day of February, 1792; and after that Time, no Person shall be admitted a Member thereof, who is above the Age of forty Years. Any Stranger may be introduced into this Society by a Member at a six week's Meeting, for that Time only, he paying Sixpence; but if he

Liberty to introduce a Stranger.

he causes any Disturbance, he shall be immediately dismissed.

IV.

• THAT on the Admission of a new Member, from and after the said second Day of February, 1792, the President shall command Silence, and shall repeat to such Member the following Words:—" Sir, Take Notice, if
 " you are above the Age of forty Years,
 " and have any bodily Infirmities to your
 " Knowledge, such as the Gout, Rheumatism,
 " or any other Disorder, so that at particular
 " Seasons you are incapable of following
 " your Business; and if any of these Things
 " be made out against you to the Satisfaction
 " of the Society, upon the Evidence of
 " Three credible Witnesses, you shall be expelled the Society, without receiving any
 " Benefit or Advantage whatever from the
 " Fund."—The President for each Neglect of reading this Declaration on the Admission of a Member, shall forfeit and pay one Shilling to this Society. And should any Person gain Admittance as a Member into this Society, by false Pretences, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of these Articles, he shall be expelled this Society whenever it shall be clearly proved against him by Three credible

President's
Charge.

Fine.

False Pretences.

credible Witnesses, and all the Money he has paid into the Stock shall become forfeited to this Society; And if it shall be suspected by any Member, that any Person admitted a Member of this Society, is above the Age of forty Years, at the Time of his Admission, from and after the said second Day of February, 1792, such Member shall within the Space of six Calendar Months next after such Suspicion shall be notified to him by the President of this Society, produce and deliver to this Society, a Certificate of the Registry of his Birth, duly authenticated by the Clergyman or Clerk of the Parish where he was born, or other Person who shall have such Registry, or on Default thereof, such Member shall be expelled this Society, and excluded from all Benefits and Advantages arising from the same. And if the President of this Society shall admit any Person a Member thereof, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Article, such President shall forfeit and pay to this Society, Ten Shillings, for each Neglect or Default.

Produce his Register, if required.

President's Fine, if he wilfully connive at the Admission of an improper Member.

V.

Terms of Admission.

THAT each Member shall pay as admission Money, Two Guineas, in Manner following (that is to say) One Guinea at the Time of his

his Entrance, and Ten Shillings and Sixpence at each of the two next following Meetings; and that every Member shall, over and above the said admission Money, pay the Sum of Five Shillings at each and every Quarterly Meeting, and also at each and every other of the said Meetings, held at the End of six Weeks after each Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Days, making in all eight Payments in the Year, which said Monies shall be paid into the Fund of this Society, and each Member of this Society shall spend Fourpence at each and every of the said Meetings, in the House in which this Society shall meet. All Forfeitures to become due and payable to this Society from any of the Members thereof, by Virtue of these Articles, shall be paid within three Months after each of such Forfeitures shall be incurred, under the Penalty of one Shilling for each Neglect, and the Clerk shall keep a minute Book under the Inspection of the President, in which the said Forfeitures shall be entered. And if any of such Forfeitures shall not be paid in Half a Year next after the same shall become payable in Manner aforesaid, the Member or Members from whom such Forfeitures shall become due, shall forfeit and pay to this Society Two Shillings and Sixpence; and if the same shall not

Payments to
the Fund.

Money to be
spent at the
Meetings.

Forfeitures
when to be
paid.

Clerk to write
to Members
neglecting
their Payments
one Month be-
fore the Year
expires, or fin-
ed two Shil-
lings and Six-
pence.

not be paid in three Quarters of a Year, then he or they shall forfeit and pay to this Society, the Sum of Four Shillings; and if the same shall not be paid in one Year, he or they shall be expelled this Society, and totally excluded from all Benefits and Advantages arising therefrom. However, in Order to prevent such Expulsion taking Place, the Clerk is hereby required, one Month before the Expiration of the aforesaid Year, to write to such offending Member, warning him of his Neglect therein; and failing herein, shall forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence to the Society.

VI.

Times of
Meeting.

THAT the first Meeting of this Society shall be held at the House of Michael Arthur, the Sign of the Chancellor's Head, in Newgate-street, in Newcastle upon Tyne, on the 2d Day of February, 1791;—the second Meeting on the first Wednesday next after the 25th Day of March, 1791, which shall be deemed the first Quarter Day;—the second Quarter Day shall be on the first Wednesday next after the 24th Day of June, 1791;—the third Quarter Day shall be on the first Wednesday next after the 29th Day of September, 1791;—and the fourth Quarter Day, or Yearly Meeting Day, shall be held on the first

first Wednesday next after the 25th Day of December, 1791. And the said several Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Days shall be continued Yearly, on the first Wednesday next after the following Days or Times, (that is to say) the 25th Day of March, the 24th Day of June, the 29th Day of September, and the 25th Day of December, unless any of the aforesaid Days or Times should fall on a Wednesday, and then such Day shall be the Meeting Day. And there shall be also yearly, four other intermediate Meeting Days, to be held on the first Wednesday next after the Expiration of the first six Weeks after each and every of the said respective Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Days. The Hour of Meeting on each of the aforesaid Days (except the Yearly Meeting at Christmas) shall be at Six of the Clock in the Evening, from the 29th Day of September, to the 25th Day of March; and at Seven of the Clock in the Evening, from the 25th Day of March, to the 29th Day of September: and to conclude all Business belonging the Society, within two Hours after the aforesaid appointed Hours of Meeting; and every Member shall be present, or his Money sent, at the Hour appointed to meet, or forfeit Twopence.—The President, four Stewards, and the Clerk, shall attend each Meeting, and shall stay until the Business

is

Hour of Meeting.

Closing the Business of the Meeting.

Fine for Non-payment.

Officer's Fine.

In the Absence
of any Officer,
the President
may depute.

Stewards to
write to the
President, if
they cannot at-
tend.

Clerk's Fine
for special
Meetings.

To prevent the
Society being
dissolved.

is finished' and the Chest locked up, or forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence each, for every such Neglect, unless he or they be prevented from attending by Sickness, Lameness, or any other reasonable Cause; in which Case the President may depute any Member that has served that Office, to officiate for him. No Steward shall be excused from attending any of the Meetings of this Society, unless he shall send his Reasons in Writing, sealed up, to the President, or shall be liable to the said Fine; and if either the President, senior Stewards, Clerk, or Landlord, so prevented from attending any of the Meetings of this Society as aforesaid, shall neglect to send his or their respective Key or Keys of the Box or Chest belonging to this Society, at or before the said respective Hours and Times of Meeting, he or they so offending shall forfeit and pay the said Fine of Two Shillings and Sixpence to this Society. And shall also be subject to the same Forfeiture of Two Shillings and Sixpence, for neglecting to attend and warn the Members on all special Meetings this Society may see fit to appoint.

VII.

THAT this Society shall not be dissolved so long as five-sixths of the Members shall think proper to continue it; nor shall it be removed

removed from the House where it is now held, without a just Cause, and that to be determined by a Majority of the Society, who shall be summoned for that Purpose. And if any Member shall contrive or endeavour to break up this Society, or consult or advise with any Member or Members thereof, to divide the Money or Effects of this Society, every Member so offending shall be fined Ten Shillings and Sixpence, or be expelled this Society, as the Majority of the Members thereof shall determine.

Penalty

VIII.

THAT a President shall be chosen at every yearly Meeting at Christmas, in the Manner following ; (that is to say) the President and the two senior Stewards for the Time being, shall each nominate a Member, who shall reside within the Liberties of the Town and County of Newcastle upon Tyne, who hath not served, nor been fined (as herein-after mentioned) for not accepting that Office, within three Years then last past ; and the Majority of the Members then present shall determine by Ballot, as aforesaid, which of the said three Persons so nominated shall fill that Office. If the Member so elected shall refuse to accept such Office, he shall forfeit and pay
to

Time and
Manner of
choosing the
President.

Distance that
excuses Mem-
bers' Attend-
ance.

to the Society Five Shillings, and the Mem-
bers then present shall forthwith proceed in
like Manner to elect another, who, in case
of refusal, shall be subject to the same penalty ;
and every Member within the distance of five
Miles of the Walls of Newcastle upon Tyne,
who shall not attend at the Election of the
President, shall forfeit and pay to this Society
the Sum of one Shilling.

IX.

Power and
Duty of the
President.

Penalty.

THAT the President so chosen, shall be the
chief Manager of this Society, and when the
Term of his Office is expired, he shall de-
liver up to the succeeding President, within
seven Days then next after, a just and true
Account of all the Money that hath been re-
ceived and disbursed by him during his Pre-
sidentship, and shall give up all Securities for
Money, and other Papers relating to this
Society, in his Possession ; or on Failure
thereof, shall forfeit and pay to this Society
the Sum of Forty-two Pounds, or to the
Amount of the Securities and other Property
belonging to this Society, then in his Pos-
session, which the Society shall have a Right
to sue for, by virtue of these Articles, in the
Name of the President and Stewards of this
Society for the Time being ; and that in the
Absence

Absence of the President, the senior Steward for the Time being shall take the Chair; and if the senior Steward shall not be present, nor any other of the Stewards of this Society, then the oldest Member present, as they stand in Rotation upon the Books, so that the Business of the Society may not be retarded. Any Member having any Thing to propose to this Society, shall address himself to the President, who shall demand Silence and good Order.

Who is to preside in Absence of the President.

All Propositions to be addressed to the President.

X.

THAT there shall be four Stewards chosen every Year; two at Christmas, and two at the Midsummer Meeting, in Rotation, as they stand in the Books of this Society, who shall serve in that Office twelve Months each; and whoever refuses to accept this Office, or shall not be present when his Name is called over by the Clerk, (unless he fills another Office under this Society at the same Time) shall forfeit and pay to this Society Two Shillings and Sixpence. The Names of the Members whose Turn it is to serve in the said Office of Stewards, shall be called over by the Clerk at eight o'Clock in the Evening, at the Midsummer Meeting, and immediately after Dinner at the Christmas Meeting. But no

Time and Duty of Stewards.

Forfeit on refusing to stand.

B

Member

Member shall be liable to serve in any Office of this Society until three Years after his Admission.

XI.

The Stewards
to account to
the Society.

THE Stewards shall deliver at every Meeting a just and clear Account of all Monies that have been disbursed and laid out by them or either of them, on the Account of the Society, or forfeit five Shillings for each Neglect.

XII.

The Clerk annually chosen.
His Duty.

Salary.

THAT a Clerk shall be chosen annually to act under the President, and keep the Accounts of the Society, who shall at every Meeting publicly make known, in the Presence of the President, Stewards, and the Members then present, the State of the Affairs of this Society, such as the Increase or Decrease of the Stock, the Disbursements and Receipts, to cause every new Member to sign the Articles of this Society, and all other Matters relating to the Business of this Society, and for his Trouble herein each Member shall pay him Sixpence per Year, at Christmas, during his Continuance in that Office. If he neglects to attend at the Hours appointed for Meeting, except he shall be prevented by

by Sickneſs or Lameneſs, of which he ſhall give Notice, in writing, to the Preſident, he ſhall forfeit and pay to this Society the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence for each Neglect. And further, that the Clerk ſhall not, at any Time, receive any Member's Contributions to pay for him or them, to this Society, on pain of loſing his Clerkſhip.

Fine.

XIII.

THAT if the Preſident or Stewards ſhall, at any Time, betray the Truſt reſoſed in them, by embezzling any Monies belonging to this Society, with which they ſhall be intruſted, or in making any other Uſe of the ſame than they are authoriſed by their Office to do, without the Conſent of the Majority of the Society, he or they ſo offending ſhall forfeit and pay to this Society, reſpectively, the Sum of Eighty Pounds, or to ſuch other Amount as they ſhall then hold of the Society's Effects in their Poſſeſſion, which this Society ſhall have a Right to ſue for by Virtue of theſe Articles.

Preſident and Stewards for embezzlement or miſapplication.

Penalty.

XIV.

THAT the Stewards ſhall, by regular Turns, once in every Week, viſit every ſick Member who has given Notice to the Society in

Viſiting the Sick.

Order to take the Benefit of the Fund, and enquire into the Nature and Cause of his Disease; and, in Case of Neglect, shall forfeit and pay to this Society Two Shillings for every Default herein. All Members living beyond five Miles of the Walls of the Town and County of Newcastle upon Tyne, shall be considered country Members, in which Case the Stewards are not obliged to attend.

Fine.

Distance.

XV.

When a Member is intitled to Benefit.

Becomes Free.

Members dying before Free.

THAT no Member shall be entitled to any Benefit arising from the Funds of this Society, till he has subscribed three Years to it from the Time of his Admission, and duly paid his admission Money and all other lawful Demands the Society shall have a Right to claim under these Articles, and after the Expiration of the said three Years, and upon such Payments being duly and regularly made, such Member shall be deemed and styled a free Member, and not otherwise. And if any Member shall die before the Expiration of the said three Years, from the Time of his Admission, the Representative or Representatives of such diseased Member, shall be repaid the whole of the Money that such deceased Member shall have paid into the Funds of this Society, after a Deduction is made

made of all Fines, Forfeitures, and other Payments due to this Society from such deceased Member, according to the Rules and Articles of this Society.

XVI.

THAT when any free Member of this Society shall, by the Providence of God, be afflicted with Sicknefs, he shall be entitled to Ten Shillings per Week, which shall be carried to his Place of Abode by the Stewards of this Society, provided he be not a country Member, in which Case it shall be remitted him with all possible Dispatch. And if the Indisposition of such Member shall continue longer than one Week, the said Stewards shall deliver or convey to him weekly the aforefaid Sum of Ten Shillings per Week, for twelve Calendar Months, if the Sicknefs of such Member shall so long continue: but no Member shall have or be entitled to receive Ten Shillings per Week for a longer Time than fifty-two Weeks, whether the same be paid every Week successively for that Period, or at different Times remote from each other; when, therefore, such Member or Members shall at any Time have received Ten Shillings per Week for fifty-two Weeks from this Society, and such Member or Members shall

Allowance to Sick.

Ten Shillings per Week for twelve Months

still continue to be afterwards incapacitated by Sicknefs from prosecuting his or their lawful Trades or Occupations, he or they shall be only allowed fix Shillings per Week, while fuch Sicknefs or Indifpofition continues. And if any free Member or free Members of this Society fhall at any Time become totally Blind, he or they fhall be paid and allowed the Sum of Seven Shillings per Week, fo long as he or they fhall labour under that Misfortune, and until he or they recover his or their Sight,

XVII.

Difeafed Mem-
bers to give
Notice.

THAT every fick Member fhall give Notice of his Diforder, or caufe it to be done to the Clerk, who fhall give Notice thereof to one or more of the Stewards, within the Space of twenty-four Hours next after he fhall receive fuch Notice from fuch Member, or forfeit One Shilling for fuch Neglect, and the Steward or Stewards to whom fuch Notice fhall be given, fhall vifit fuch Member or Members within the Space of twenty-four Hours next after he or they fhall receive fuch Notice, or forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence; and if the Stewards find the Cafe to be as represented to them, they fhall instantly pay him or them Ten Shillings. But in Cafe they have

Vifiting Sick.

Payment to
Sick.

have the least Doubt or Suspicion in Respect to the person's Disease who is represented to them to be Sick, they shall then apply to a Surgeon, to examine such diseased Member or Members, and give his Opinion thereon; and the said Steward or Stewards shall act accordingly.—Every country Member calling on the Box of this Society, shall send a Certificate, in Writing, to the Purport or Effect set forth in the Schedule hereunder written, intituled No. 1, setting forth his Disease, and that he is incapable of carrying on his Business, the same to be signed by the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish wherein he resides, or by the Minister and two respectable Persons of the Congregation to whom he belongs; and, on his Recovery, an Affidavit shall be immediately sent, to the Purport or Effect as set forth in the Schedule hereunderwritten intituled No. 2 and No. 3, that such Member was afflicted during the whole Time he received Benefit from the Funds of this Society, as expressed in the said Certificate; and, if it appears that such Member has imposed upon the Society, he shall be immediately expelled this Society, and receive no further Benefit or Advantage therefrom.—All Letters to be directed to the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen in Newcastle upon Tyne, and Post paid.

Treatment,

Remote Mem-
bers.

Affidavit,

Letters Post
paid.

XVIII.

Members disqualified to receive Benefit.

Without the Kingdoms of Britain and Ireland.

Restrictions

Entering into the King's Service.

THAT no Member shall receive, or be intitled to any Benefit or Allowance from this Society, for or on Account of any Misfortune, Hurt, or Injury, which he or they shall or may receive by boxing, bruising, or fighting; nor shall any Member or Members of this Society, receive or be intitled to any Benefit or Allowance from this Society, who shall constantly reside out of the Kingdoms of Great Britain or Ireland, or either of them, unless he or they shall be impressed as a Sailor or Soldier into the Service of the Government of the said Kingdom, or either of them; or unless such Member or Members shall by Reason and on Account of his Profession as a Sailor or Merchant, be obliged to visit foreign Countries, in any of which Cases, such Member or Members must pay up all Arrears due from him or them to this Society, before he or they shall be intitled to receive any Benefit or Allowance from the Funds of this Society. And if any Member or Members of this Society, shall enlist into his Majesty's Service by Sea or Land, he shall be immediately expelled this Society, and be excluded from all Benefit and Advantages arising from the same. And if any Member or

or Members of this Society, shall frequent Gaming-houses, bet Wagers, or appear Drunk or intoxicated with Liquor at any Time when he or they is or are receiving any weekly Allowance from the Funds of this Society, he shall for each Offence forfeit and pay to this Society Ten Shillings, and in Default of Payment thereof when required of him or them, he or they shall immediately be expelled this Society, and totally excluded from all further Benefit or Advantages arising from the same. And no Member or Members afflicted with the Venereal Disease shall have or be entitled to any weekly Allowance from this Society, for or on Account of such illness.

Gaming, drinking, or disorderly when on the Box.

XIX.

THAT at the Death of any free Member of this Society, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall, upon producing to this Society a Certificate, in writing, of the Death of such Member, to the Purport or Effect as set forth in the Schedule hereunder written, intituled No. 5, shall be paid by the President, for the Time being, of this Society, out of the Funds of the said Society, the Sum of Thirty Pounds, if the said Funds shall not at that Time exceed the Sum

Death of Members. To whom the Legacy ought to be paid.

Authority.

Sums to be paid.

Sum of Three Hundred Pounds; and if such Funds shall then amount to more than the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid, by the President of this Society, the Sum of Thirty-five Pounds; and if such Funds shall then amount to more than the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid, by the President of this Society, the Sum of Forty Pounds; and if the Funds of this Society shall amount to more than the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid, by the President of this Society, the Sum of Forty-five Pounds; and if the Funds of this Society shall amount to more than the Sum of Six Hundred Pounds, the Widow or personal Representative of such deceased Member shall be paid, by the President of this Society, the Sum of Fifty Pounds.—The said respective Payments to be made at the End of two Calendar Months next after the Death of such Member of this Society. And every Member of this Society shall, upon the Decease of any of the Members thereof, pay into the Funds of this Society the Sum of Five

When to be
paid.

Member's
contribution at
the Death of a
Member.

Five Shillings, towards keeping up the Funds of the said Society.

XX.

THAT every free Member of this Society shall have and be intitled to receive the Sum of Five Pounds from this Society, at the Death of his lawful Wife, such Member providing a decent Funeral, and also producing a Certificate, in writing, of their Marriage, to the Purport or Effect as set forth in the Schedule hereunder written, intituled No. 4, if required.

Death of Members Wives.

Attestation.

XXI.

THAT every Member of this Society who lives to attain the Age of Seventy Years, and shall be in straitened Circumstances, may (if he chooses to accept it) on his attaining that Age, and fully proving it to this Society, and also giving Notice thereof to this Society, in writing, be exempt from all Manner of Contributions to this Society (except Fines), and notwithstanding be entitled to all the Benefits and Advantages arising from this Society.

Privileges of Members who attain the Age of Seventy.

XXII. THAT

XXII.

A Committee
to settle Dif-
ferences.

THAT whenever any Disputes or Differences shall arise amongst the Members of this Society, or any of them, respecting the Construction, true Intent, and Meaning, of any of the Articles, Rules, and Regulations, contained in these present Articles, the same shall be referred to a Committee, to consist of Eleven Members present at a Meeting of this Society, who shall be appointed in the following Manner, (that is to say) the President to nominate three, one of whom shall be Foreman; and the four Stewards, two each; and the said Members thus chosen shall receive from the President an Account, in writing, of the Matter in Dispute; and the said Committee, immediately on receipt thereof, shall withdraw into a private Room in the House in which this Society shall meet, and carefully peruse these present Articles, and immediately determine the Matters in Question, which shall be done by a Majority of such Committee of eleven Members. And the said Committee shall, immediately after such Determination, return into the Club Room, and make a Report thereof, in writing, to be delivered by the Foreman of the said Committee to the President of this Society, and

and shall be entered in a Book by the Clerk of this Society, to be provided and kept for that Purpose; and such Determination shall be final and conclusive. But no Committee shall be appointed for the Purposes aforesaid, or for any other Purpose whatsoever, unless a Majority of the Members of this Society be present in the Club-Room; neither shall any Disputes and Differences respecting this Society, or the Rules and Articles contained in these Presents, be decided at any other Time than on a six-week's Meeting; and any Member refusing to act as a Member of such Committee, after being appointed as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay to this Society the Sum of Five Shillings, and another Member shall forthwith be chosen in his Stead.

Determinations to be registered.

No Committee without a Majority of the Society be present.

XXIII.

THAT no Member of this Society may pretend Ignorance of the Rules and Regulations contained in these Articles, every Member shall buy a printed Copy of these Articles, for which he shall pay Sixpence into the Fund of this Society. Every Member shall sign his Name to these Articles, with the Addition of his Place of Abode and Trade, his Age, and the Time of his being admitted a Member.

Members obliged to purchase a Copy of the Articles.

Members to sign.

XXIV. THAT

XXIV.

Every Member to have a Certificate.

May be assigned.

THAT every Member upon his becoming Free of this Society, shall receive a proper Certificate, signed by the President and Stewards for the Time being, by Virtue of which he, his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, will be intitled to receive all Benefits and Allowances which he or they shall respectively be intitled to from the Funds of this Society by Virtue of these Articles, and which Certificate may be assigned over by such Member or Members for a full and valuable Consideration, but not otherwise.

XXV.

Members who having assigned their Certificates, and dying without Effects, to bury them.

THAT when any free Member shall assign his Certificate to any Person or Persons, and he shall not at his Death leave Effects sufficient to discharge his funeral Expences, then in such Case, it shall be at the Discretion of the President and Stewards to provide or not provide for such Member out of this Society a decent Funeral, but the Expence whereof shall not exceed three Pounds.

XXVI.

THAT no Person who is a Member of or belonging to any other Benefit Society, shall be

be admitted a Member of this Society; likewise any Member of this Society, who shall enter into and become a Member of any other Society of the like Nature, shall be expelled this Society, and excluded from all Benefits, Allowances, and Advantages arising or to arise from the Funds of the same.

Members of this Society to be excluded if they engage in any other.

XXVII.

THAT whenever the Stock of this Society shall be reduced to less than three Pounds to every Member thereof, then the Members of this Society shall contribute equally at the first Quarterly Meeting then next after, to advance the Funds to that Amount, or be excluded this Society.

Members to contribute to increase the Fund.

XXVIII.

THAT the President and Stewards for the Time being of this Society, shall from Time to Time, when and as often as the Cash belonging to the Funds of this Society (except what may be required for the Exigencies of this Society) shall amount to the Sum of Fifty Pounds, invest and place the same out at Interest on such Securities as the Majority of the Members of this Society shall determine, at the first six week's Meeting which shall happen

Surplus Money. How to be disposed of.

happen after the Funds shall amount to that Sum.

XXIX.

Exposing Se-
crets.

THAT if any Member of this Society shall divulge or expose any of the Secrets or Debates of this Society to any Person not a Member thereof, such Member so offending shall, on Proof thereof by any Person of Credit to the Satisfaction of a Majority of the Members then present, forfeit and pay Two Shillings and Sixpence to this Society, or be expelled the same.

Penalty.

XXX.

Box, its Use
and Descrip-
tion.

THAT there shall be a Box or Chest provided, to contain the Books, Cash, and all Papers belonging to this Society, and the same shall have five Locks and five Keys of different Constructions; one to be kept by the President of this Society, one by each of the senior Stewards, one by the Clerk, and one by the Landlord of the House in which the Society meets: and which said President, senior Stewards, Clerk, and Landlord, shall be present at every Meeting of this Society at the respective Hours of Meeting, with their respective Keys, or be fined Two Shillings and Sixpence. Vide Art. 6.

Fine in Default
of Keys being
sent.

XXXI. THAT

XXXI.

THAT if any Member of this Society shall be convicted of Perjury, or any other Crime, in any Court of Judicature in those Kingdoms, such Member shall, at the next Quarterly Meeting after such Conviction, be expelled this Society, and excluded from all Benefits, Allowances, and Advantages, arising or to arise from the Funds of this Society; nor shall such expelled Member be again received into this Society, without a Majority of three-fourths of the Members then belonging to this Society, at the Yearly Meeting next after such Expulsion, vote for his Re-admission; and in that Case, such Member shall pay the same Sums into the Funds of this Society, that any other Person would have to pay on being elected a Member thereof.

Punishment
of Perjury.

Leave to ap-
peal at the
yearly Meet-
ing.

If re-admitted
to pay the same
as a new Mem-
ber.

XXXII.

THAT there shall be a Dinner provided at the House in which this Society shall hold their Meetings, on every yearly Meeting-day, and that every Member of this Society (whether present or absent) shall pay Two Shillings towards it. And that on such every yearly Meeting-day, there shall be an occasional

A Yearly Din-
ner.

C

Sermon

A Sermon
yearly, if ap-
proved by a
Majority.

Sermon preached, provided the Majority of the Members of this Society shall approve of it, at such Place of divine Worship as the Majority of the Members of this Society, at the Meeting next before such yearly Meeting shall determine, and the Minister shall be paid Ten Shillings and Sixpence from the Funds of this Society.

XXXIII.

A Fire to be
lighted in the
Room.

Landlord's
Security.

THAT the Landlord of the House in which this Society shall hold its Meetings, shall have a good Fire in the Club Room, on every Meeting-night, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, or forfeit One Shilling for each neglect; and that he shall also enter into and become bound in a Bond, with one or more sufficient Surety or Sureties, to the President, for the Time being, of this Society, in the Penalty of One Hundred Pounds, to produce the Box in which the Cash, Books, Papers, and other Things belonging to this Society, shall be kept, at every Meeting, at the usual Time of meeting, and at other Times when lawfully required by the President and Stewards of this Society.

XXXIV.

Fines for
various Mis-
demeanors.

To preserve good Order and Decorum in this Society, the several Fines hereinafter mentioned

mentioned shall be imposed on every Member who shall imprudently subject himself to them, (that is to say);

Whoever causes a Quarrel in the Club Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling. Quarrel in the Room.

Whoever shall curse or swear in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling. Swearing.

Whoever shall use abusive or obscene Language in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling. Ill Language.

Whoever shall bet Wagers, or promote gaming, in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, Sixpence. Wagers.

Whoever degrades a Brother of this Society, except it be for breaking any of these Articles, shall forfeit One Shilling. Contempt and Defamation.

Whoever reflects upon any Member of this Society, either in or out of the Club-Room, for being chargeable to the Society, shall forfeit for the first Offence, Two Shillings; second, Four Shillings; third, Eight Shillings, or be expelled this Society. Reflections.

Liquor and
Tobacco.

Whoever shall call for Liquor or Tobacco, without the Leave of the President, shall pay for it himself.

Nick Names.

Whoever calls any Member of this Society any Nick Names in the Club-Room, shall forfeit for each Offence, One Shilling.

Smoking.

Whoever shall smoke at the President's Table without his Leave, shall forfeit Sixpence.

Silence.

Whoever shall refuse to be silent when Silence has been three Times called by the President, shall forfeit for each Offence, Sixpence.

Party Factions

Whoever shall cause party Factions or any contentious Argument concerning either Party, Church, or State, shall forfeit for each Offence, Two Shillings.

Insult and Dis-
obedience.

Whoever shall insult the President or Stewards in their Office, and refuse to go to their Seats when required by the President, shall forfeit for every Offence, One Shilling.

Fines to go into
the Fund.

All Fines to be paid into the Funds of this Society.

XXXV. THAT

XXXV.

THAT if any Debate shall arise concerning any Matter or Thing, which may be deemed for the Good of this Society, and the better Order and Regulation of the same, in such Case the Clerk shall send a written Summons to every free Member, to meet on the next Quarter Day, at least one calendar Month next before such Quarter Day, and the Members then present shall and may, and are hereby empowered (if a Majority of Three-fourths of the Members shall be present) to add any new Article or Articles to these present Articles, and which new Article or Articles shall be of equal Force and Validity with these present Articles, provided that none of the Rules or Articles contained in these Presents, shall be destroyed or made void by any of such new Rules or Articles. And that no such new Rules or Articles shall be made, unless the same shall be approved of by a Majority of Three fourths of all the whole Members of this Society. And if any Member shall not attend the Meeting in Consequence of such Summons, he or they so neglecting, shall forfeit and pay to this Society One Shilling. And when any urgent, or special Business shall require the Members of

Manner of adding new Articles.

By a Majority of Three-fourths.

Penalty.

of this Society to meet prior to their regular stated Times of Meeting, such Member or Members being summoned by the Clerk for that Purpose, he or they neglecting to attend such Meeting, shall forfeit One Shilling to this Society.

XXXVI.

Members in-
titled to a Loan
of Twenty
Pounds.

Manner of
Payment.

THAT if any free Member, by Losses or other Misfortunes in Trade or Business, shall become a Bankrupt, or be obliged to compound with his Creditors, and no Charge of Fraud appear against him, then the Society do hereby agree to advance to such unfortunate Member or Members the Sum of Twenty Pounds sterling, from the Funds of this Society, provided he or they do provide satisfactory Security to repay the principal without Interest by Instalments, in four Payments of Five Pounds each, at the End of every Six successive Months from the Date of the said Security.

XXXVII.

Imprisonment
Allowance of
Two Shillings
per Week.

THAT if any free Member of this Society shall, by unavoidable Misfortune, become Insolvent, and shall at any Time during such Insolvency, be confined in Gaol at the Suit or Suits of one or more of his Creditor or Creditors,

Creditors, and no Imputation of Fraud be proved against him, such Member shall have and be allowed so long as he shall be so confined in Gaol, Two Shillings per Week, out of the Funds of this Society.

XXXVIII.

THAT as this Society is intended for the mutual Benefit and Advantage of every Member thereof, it is earnestly recommended that all Persons thereunto belonging, do assist and encourage each other in their respective Trades and Occupations as much as they conveniently can, in Order that the Usefulness of this Society to all its Members, may become as extensive as possible.

Recommended
that the Mem-
bers promote
each others
Welfare.

XXXIX.

THAT the Widow, or personal Representative or Representatives, claiming the Legacy arising from the Death of a deceased Member, shall produce and deliver the Certificate that such Member received from this Society on his becoming a free Member thereof, or she, he, or they shall not be entitled to receive such Legacy, except it shall clearly appear that such Certificate had been lost or mislaid; in which Case the Party or Parties so applying, shall, at their own Cost, give public Notice, by Advertisement, three successive

Members Cer-
tificate to be
produced at
their Death.

Notice to be
given in the
Gazette.

successive Weeks in all the Newcastle Newspapers, agreeable to the Form set forth in the annexed Schedule marked No. 6. And when any free Member of this Society shall be expelled this Society, Notice thereof shall be given in the London Gazette, provided the Majority of this Society so determine it, that in Case of such Member having transferred his Certificate, the Holder thereof may have that warning to indemnify himself.

XL.

And for the true Payment, Performance, and Observance of all and every the Articles, Covenants, Clauses, and Conditions, we do hereby respectively bind ourselves, as witness our Hands.

No. 1. Referred to in Art. 7.

The Form of a Certificate from a Member in the Country, in Case of Sicknefs or Lameness, requiring Benefit from this Society :

To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

This is to certify to the President, Stewards, and Members of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, that A. B. of [Here insert the Place of Abode and Trade.] being a Member of the said Society, is now Sick or Lame [Here mention the particular Circumstances of his Disorder] and requests that the Society would transmit to him such weekly Benefits as he is intitled to from the said Society.

We, the Minister and Churchwardens of do hereby testify the Truth of the above Certificate, in Testimony whereof we have hereunto set our Hands the Day of One Thousand Seven Hundred

Confirmed by
Physician, Surgeon,
or Apothecary.

Minister.

} Church Wardens.

No. 2. Referred to in Art. 17.

The Form of an Affidavit required to be taken by any Member who shall be suspected of receiving the Benefit of Ten Shillings per Week from this Society, not having a Right to the same, according to the Rules and Articles of the said Society.

To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

A. B. of [Here insert the Place of Abode and Trade] being a Member of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, maketh Oath, that during the whole Time wherein he received the Benefit of Ten Shillings per Week from the said Society, he was incapable, by Sicknefs, to exercise or perform any kind of Business.

*Sworn this Day of One Thousand Seven
Hundred and before me, one of his Majesty's
Justices of the Peace for the*

No. 3. *Referred to in Art. 17.*

A Form of an Affidavit required to be taken by any Member who shall be suspected of receiving the Benefit of Six Shillings per Week from this Society, not having a Right to the same, according to the Rules and Articles of the said Society.

To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

A. B. of [Here insert the Place of Abode and Trade] being a Member of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, maketh Oath, that during the Time he hath received the Benefit of Six Shillings per Week from the said Society, he hath not done any kind of Business whatsoever, and that he hath not been able to exercise or carry on any Business on account of Sicknefs or Lameness [as the Case may happen to be] during the Time he hath received such Allowance from the said Society.

Sworn this Day of One Thousand Seven
Hundred and before me, one of his Majesty's
Justices of the Peace for the

No. 4. Referred to in Art. 20.

The Form of a Certificate to be sent by any Member
on the Decease of his Wife, directed to the Clerk
of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle
upon Tyne, (post paid)

*To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in
Newcastle upon Tyne.*

*This is to certify to the President, Stewards, and
Members of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle
upon Tyne, that A. B. the Wife of J. B. of [Here insert
the Place of Abode and Trade] being a Member of the
said Society, departed this Life on the Day of
One Thousand Seven Hundred and and was
buried the Day of at the Church of*

Witness our Hands this Day of 17

Minister.

Clerk.

No 5. Referred to in Art. 19.

The Form of a Certificate to be sent by the Friends
or Relations of any deceased Member, directed to
the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in
Newcastle upon Tyne, (post paid)

*To the Clerk of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in
Newcastle upon Tyne.*

*This is to certify to the President, Stewards, and
Members, of the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, in Newcastle
upon Tyne, that A. B. late of [Here insert his late Place
of Abode] was before his Death a Member of the said
Society, and that he departed this Life the Day of
One Thousand Seven Hundred and and
was buried the Day of at the Church of*

As witness our Hands this Day of 17

Minister.

Clerk.

No. 6. Referred to in Art. 39.

Newcastle,

Notice is hereby given, that any Person or Persons whatever, who have any Claim or Demand on the Liberal Society of Tradesmen, held at in this Town, on Account of A. B. of deceased, late a Member of the aforesaid Society, are hereby required immediately to apply to the President and Stewards of the said Society, and to produce and deliver the Certificate which belonged to the aforesaid A. B. or the Legacy due by his Death, will be paid to (Widow or Representative as may happen) and no further Claim will be, in future, admitted.

THE END.

